

Summary and Results

August 22nd Groundwater Caucus

Case Study Focus

Update 2013 - California Water Plan
Plenary – September 12-13, 2012
DoubleTree Hotel, Sacramento

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August 22nd Groundwater Caucus Agenda

- Water Plan Content Enhancement
- Groundwater Case Study Concepts
 - Best Groundwater Management Practices
 - Legislation to Implementation - CASGEM
 - Policy & Technical Challenges to Streamlining Groundwater Recharge and Storage
 - Working Group Reports

Groundwater Management Case Study Questions

- 1) Do you know of agencies with a comprehensive GMP that have been able to implement most of their components?
 - a) If yes, what is considered the biggest factor enabling successful completion?
 - b) If not, what hurdles or obstacles did the agency encounter that limited their implementation of groundwater management?
- 2) What are some recommendations to further facilitate local groundwater management planning efforts?



Groundwater Management Workshop Attendees Input

Success

- Funding & Exec Support
- Advisory and Technical Committees to implement
- Communications - early
 - Technical to lay persons
- Broad stakeholder group
- Solid science foundation

Hurdles

- Communications
- Delays due to technical report missed deadlines
- Lack of funding for implementation
- Keeping stakeholders engaged long-term
- Maintaining privacy of groundwater data
- Consistency in data

Groundwater Management Workshop Attendees Input

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Early education of stakeholders
- Explanation of what groundwater management means
- Common understanding of value of resource
- Clear explanation of what is needed and why
- Improve information on surface water-groundwater interconnection with dependent ecosystems
- Address potential impact(s) on individual well owner

Legislation to Implementation - CASGEM Case Study Questions

- **How do we communicate to policy makers the ramifications of poorly-written or overly prescriptive laws?**
- **How can legislation be written to be effective and allow flexibility for the variability of factors related to groundwater in California?**
- **Should all groundwater basins be treated the same and require long-term and seasonal groundwater elevation monitoring? Is this reasonable? Is this feasible? Is this a good use of resources?**

Legislation to Implementation - CASGEM

Case Study Questions

- How do we educate the diverse parties dealing with groundwater issues so legislation improves groundwater management rather than create onerous regulations?
- How can we get away from the struggle between confidentiality of wells and groundwater information and making well and groundwater data more readily available including to the public in order to better manage the limited groundwater resources?
- What can be done to help areas of counties struggling to comply with CASGEM, but have limited financial resources and no other eligible local agencies in the area of the groundwater basin?

Legislation to Implementation – CASGEM Workshop Attendees Input

Success

- AB3030
- SB1938
- Prop 13, 50 & 84

Hurdles

- Counties struggling to comply with CASGEM
 - Large, vast areas with small population
- State should assist
- Difficult to draft – diversity of special interest groups involved

Legislation to Implementation – CASGEM Workshop Attendees Input

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Requires more education for improving legislation
- Need common ground, myth-busters to break down silos
- Unfunded mandates are not implementable
- Work with agencies that will implement legislation during development of the legislation
- Convey that there should be some statewide consistency, with local management, implementation and control
- Legislation should have a follow-up period of review, to revisit with some trigger to improve or modify



Groundwater Recharge/Storage Questions

Are there ways we can facilitate further increasing groundwater recharge & storage with a goal towards sustainability?

- **State Agency Coordinating Committee on Groundwater Recharge and Storage?**
- **Alignment of state agencies with respect to mandates and policies?**
- **Locally, regionally, and statewide assess how much additional groundwater recharge/storage is needed?**
- **Hold forums, conduct webinars, symposiums**

Groundwater Recharge/Storage Workshop Attendees Input

Success

- Critical need to recharge – *seawater intrusion*
- Institutional charge – WRD, OCWD
- Funding
- Crisis – brings stakeholders together

Hurdles

- Science & understanding of local conditions
- Sustainability criteria
- Water to recharge, conveyance, and timing
- Land use changes
- Scale and politics – local, regional and statewide

Groundwater Recharge/Storage Workshop Attendees Input

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Get agencies together to share mandates and issues to have better general understanding of challenges
- Have more consistent criteria on how basin groundwater recharge and surface water interconnection and dependent ecosystems addressed
- Look at reservoir re-operation more closely
- Evaluate effects of climate change on runoff and recharge
- 3E – ecosystems, economics and equality

Groundwater Caucus Workshop Attendees Input Closing General Comment

To make water management work –

Integrated Regional Water Management

Incorporates local and regional planning

Now, need state government to ***re-integrate***

Align mandates, policies, regulations, investments

State agencies set comprehensive outcomes

IRWMs implement projects to get there

What Should a Case Study Look Like?

- Institutional framework – including legislative mandate or applicable water code
- Basic water resources setting, main issues, key challenges
- Public participation component – stakeholder involvement processes and partners
- Monitoring program and protocols
- Basin management objectives, management components and how success is measured and monitored
- What has worked and/or not worked, key differentiators
- One page narrative, exclusive of images
- Weblinks to obtain more information and key contacts

A photograph of a traditional wooden windmill in a dry, open landscape. The windmill has a large, multi-bladed wheel at the top, mounted on a tall, lattice-like wooden tower. The base of the tower is a dark, rectangular structure. To the right of the windmill, a large, leafless tree stands prominently. The ground is dry and dusty, with some sparse vegetation. In the background, there are rolling hills and a cloudy sky. The text "Questions & Discussion" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Questions & Discussion